
Appendix A: LAN Information

This appendix assumes that a Local Area Network has already been setup for your workstations and outlines the file access limitations and requirements for Call Accounting from a network server. It also lists the shared and local files which must be set up in order for Call Accounting to properly operate from a network server.

As part of the Meridian Administration Tools LAN installation, Call Accounting can be run by supported workstations (PCs) over a network. Running Call Accounting from a network provides a central source for all of the system databases.

File descriptions

Depending on their properties, the Call Accounting database files reside on different directories either on the server or on individual workstations (PCs). As part of the network installation, Call Accounting will automatically assign the shared and non-shared files to their proper drives and directories.

The following sections describe these shared and non-shared files. These files will be installed onto the network and workstation drives during the network installation and setup procedures.

Shared files

Shared files are files that may be used by all users on the network (according to their specific access rights). They are installed onto a network server drive in the selected directory. The following table contains a list of these shared files.

Table A-1
Shared files

File Label	Filename
Call Database	MDR1.DAT
Index File	INDEX1.DAT
Customer Directory	CUST1.DAT
Billing Database	BILLDB1.DAT
Other Billable Items File	ADDMDR1.DAT
Carrier Pricing Template Files	CARRIE1.MOD
Communications Database	MDRCOMM.DAT
Auto Backup File	BACKUP1.DAT
Reporting Options	SYS1.DAT
—end—	

Non-shared files

Non-shared files are installed on the disk and subdirectory of each workstation which runs Call Accounting. These provide each workstation with specific data management and reporting functions.

The following list of non-shared files will be assigned to the working drive and directory of each workstation using the same directory configuration as the network directory. For example, if Call Accounting was installed on the network drive: **E:\NETDIR\MAT** and its working directory was **E:\NETDIR\MATWORK\SITEA**, then these non-shared files will be installed on **C:\NETDIR\MATWORK\SITEA**.

Table A-2
Non-shared files

File Label	Filename
Report File	REPLOG1.xxx
Select File	SELECT1.DAT
Summary File	CUMM1.DAT
—end—	

File access limitations

The Call Accounting database files are either available as shared files (installed on the network server) or as non-shared files (installed on each workstation). Non-shared files are used by each workstation and contain information required specifically for that workstation. Due to their properties, shared files can be accessed from the network with certain restrictions. The following sections describe the restrictions for the shared database files.

File locked access

File locked database files can be accessed by multiple users (workstations) simultaneously. Only the first user has full read/write access to the files (except for the Index File which is always a read-only file). All subsequent users have read-only access to the files. If a user attempts to access a database file while it is opened by another user, its dialog will appear in read-only mode allowing the user to view its records but not edit them.

The Telephone Configuration Database (CONFIG1.DAT) is a shared file with read/write access to the first user. All subsequent users will be locked out of the file until it is closed by the first user.

Table A-3
Shared files with locked access

File Label	Filename
Billing Database	BILLDB1.DAT
Customer Directory	CUST1.DAT
Call Database	MDR1.DAT
Index File	INDEX1.DAT
Other Billable Items File	ADDMDR1.DAT
Carrier Pricing Template Files	CARRIE1.DAT
Location Book Registry	LOCATION.REG
—end—	

Simultaneous access

These database files can be accessed and edited by multiple users at the same time. Their edits, however, can only be saved by each workstation one at a time. These files have ‘multi-user browse’ and ‘single user write’ access. That is, multiple workstations can access a single file at the same time, but only the user who last saves the file and exits from the database editor will have their edits saved.

Therefore, if multiple users edit the same record simultaneously, only the last user to save that file will have their edits saved. The other users will have their data overwritten. To avoid confusion, you should have only designated users update these databases.

Table A-4
Shared files with simultaneous access

File Label	Filename
Reporting Options File	SYS1.DAT
System Options File	MDRSYS.DAT
—end—	

Report generation restrictions

When generating reports, the system uses shared database files for calculating costs and summaries as well as assigning employee and customer information. The reporting function provides read-only access to these databases and allows multiple users to generate reports simultaneously. The system will not allow reports to be run by another workstation during the indexing stage of data collection. During this process, the Call Database will be opened by a workstation performing the data collection in exclusive mode and cannot be accessed by another workstation.

